

informing academic curriculum:

Liberal Studies One @ OCAD

Since its inception in 1876, the **Ontario College of Art & Design** has excelled in practical and theoretical art & design instruction. To meet the challenges of the new art & design environment, OCAD recently became a degree-granting institution to integrate a rigorous academic foundation into our curriculum. We need to ensure that our students create informed, socially situated art & design while allowing them to engage fully in our new information-based economy.

rational e

OCAD = university

can we create a unique art & design focus to all academic curriculum?

= **studio-based** can studio-based instruction shape academic courses?

= **peer-review** can peer-review inform writing processes?

= **visual thinking** can visual thinkers be visual readers?

skill sets

= **reading** identifying themes creates a mnemonic “roadmap” for reading

= **writing** tutorials replicate studio instruction, helping to verbalize/visualize writing processes

= **research** information literacy “sense-making” models place information into cognitively visualized landscapes

= **cultural awareness** inter-disciplinary curriculum and cross-listed instructors promote expanded field of academic vision

Planning

proposing **spring**

proposed by Dean of Liberal Studies for:

3 course credits for students

2.5 course allotment for faculty

60 hrs for library staff

preparing **summer**

day-long meetings were held discussing:

course structure can lecture, seminar & tutorial format be accommodated?

chronological structure do we follow canonical, Western European models?

core texts: can we cover non-Western European literature?

schedule

braving new worlds

chronological structure:

fall: antiquity – renaissance

winter: enlightenment – modern era

weekly schedule:

2 hr lecture 150 students

1.5 hr seminar 5 groups of 30 students

1 hr tutorial 30 groups of 6 students

themes

pursuit of meaning justice

violence, conflict, war perception of world

male dominance identity

power & submission individuality

otherness & exclusion text/subtext as critique

themes

otherness/exclusion

athenian democracy

Plato's Republic
for philosopher kings only?



Greeks vs. non-Greeks
citizens vs. slaves

crusades

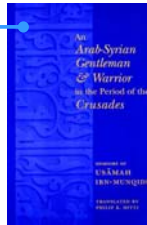
Song of Roland Christianity =
chivalry-honour-obedience
Memoirs of Usamah Ibn-Munqidh
Islam = knowledge-wisdom-culture



west vs. east
Christianity vs. Islam



the east is
orientalized



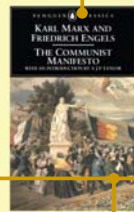
renaissance/ age of exploration

The Tempest:
Prospero = civilization &
enlightenment or colonizer?
Caliban = nature & barbaric
or the colonized other?
Ariel = enslaved sexuality?



industrial revolution

Communist Manifesto
class struggle &
controlling means of
production



religion is opiate of
masses

colonialism =
oppression



the orientalized
are sexualized



post- colonialism

Things Fall Apart
civilization =
barbarism
reclaiming
indigenous voice

victorian era

Jane Eyre =
enlightenment &
controlled sexuality
Bertha = barbaric &
uncontrolled sexuality
& enslaved indigenous
voice?



are women colonized?

projects

assignments

5 papers all peer-reviewed

reflection

visual analysis

interpretation

critical essay

creative writing

journals tracking experiences in LS One through text, images, and other media

library seminar 1 fall

visual analysis:

- 1. informing visualization** distinguish form vs. content in art/design object
- 2. verbalizing the visual** translate visual analysis into text; move from personal vocabularies to controlled ones
- 3. where do you begin?** select appropriate information resource for different points in the research process

library seminar 2 winter

researching the research paper:

- 1. controlling information?** discussion of peer-review & academic publishing: does it matter? discuss pros/cons of Wikis
- 2. relocating information** compare searches on Google with library databases: does the context of the information influence how we use it?
- 3. using information** primary/secondary sources in the writing process & using the ideas of others effectively & ethically